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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector

TO THE

EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

MANN BROS., Printers,
Darn Crook, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

—
1926.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



EARSDON,

APRIL, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Earsdon Urban
District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to forward you my Report for the twelve months ending
31st December, 1925.

POPULATION.

The population of the District, according to the census of
1921, was 11,311, and estimated to the end of 1925 is 12,080.

Earsdon Township	...	...	...	4,300
Backworth Township	...	...	...	2,920
Holywell Township	...	...	...	3,500
Murton Township	...	...	...	1,360

12,080

AREA.

The total area of the District is 4,711 acres.

BIRTHS.

278 births have been registered in the District, being an increase of 5 as compared with last year. These are apportioned as follows :—

	Males.		Females.		Illegitimate.				Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Earsdon Township	51	...	35	...	2	...	1	...	89
Backworth Township	44	...	38	...	1	...	1	...	84
Holywell Township	24	...	37	...	1	...	—	...	62
Murton Township	22	...	20	...	1	...	—	...	43
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	141		130		5		2		278

These births give a birth rate at 23·01 per 1,000 per annum, calculated upon a population of 12,080 for birth rate, as supplied by Registrar General, an increase of ·22 upon that of last year.

The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18·3.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths, after adding residents who have died outside the District and deducting non-residents, is 136, which gives a death rate or 11·25, an increase of ·69 on that of last year. These deaths are apportioned as follows :—

	Males.		Females.		Total.	
Earsdon Township	...	26	...	21	...	47
Backworth Township	...	21	...	16	...	37
Holywell Township	...	16	...	16	...	32
Murton Township	...	7	...	13	...	20
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	70		56		136	

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12·2.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)	...	...	...	70	66
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	2
Cerebral Hemorrhage	...	...	...	8	4
Measles	...	...	...	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	1	2
Menengococcal Menengitis	...	...	...	1	0
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	5	7
Arterio sclerosis	...	...	...	3	0
Other tuberculosis diseases	...	...	...	3	1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	8	11
Accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	—	1
Organic heart disease	...	...	...	3	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	7	7
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach	...	...	...	—	2
Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	...	...	2	1
Congenital debility, etc.	...	...	...	4	6
Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	...	4	—
Suicide	...	...	...	1	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	15	11
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	Total			11	13
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—
Total Births	...	...	...	146	132
Legitimate	...	...	...	141	130
Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	2

Population for Birth rate, and	} 12,080
Population for Death rate ...	

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

There have been 8 deaths from Zymotic Disease.

Measles	...	...	...	1	
Whooping cough	...	...	...	2	
Diarrhœa and enteritis	...	...	...	5	(under 2 years)
				—	
				8	

which gives a death rate of ·66 per 1000 per annum, an increase of ·7 upon that of last year.

PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).

There have been 12 deaths from Phthisis, which give a death rate of ·99 per 1000 per annum, an increase of ·32 upon that of last year. These are allocated to the following Townships:—

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Earsdon	...	...	...	1	2	3
Backworth	...	...	...	2	2	4
Holywell	...	...	...	3	—	3
Murton	...	...	...	—	2	2
				—	—	—
				6	6	12

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1925.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	1	2	1	—	3	1	—	—
20	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
35	...	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...		5	7	3	2	5	4	Nil.	Nil.

PNEUMONIA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

21 deaths have occurred from these diseases, which give a rate of 1·73 per 1000 per annum.

INFLUENZA.

There has been no death from this disease during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There has been 24 deaths of children under 1 year, which gives a mortality rate of 86·33 per 1000 births, an increase of 20·4 upon that of last year.

	Number of Deaths		
	Males.	Females.	Total.
Earsdon Township ...	2	2	4
Backworth Township	3	7	10
Holywell Township...	2	1	3
Murton Township ...	4	3	7
	—	—	—
	11	13	24

These deaths arose from the following causes :—

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Pneumonia ...	...	—	2	2
Congenital Debility...	...	5	8	13
Bronchitis ...	...	1	1	2
Diarrhœa ...	...	2	2	4
Convulsions ...	...	3	—	3
		—	—	—
		11	13	24

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

119 cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year, an increase of 43 on last year. These are allocated to the following townships ;—

			Earsdon.	Backworth.	Holywell.	Murton.	Total.	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	2	2	6	—
Tuberculosis of lungs			4	5	2	3	14	9
„	(other forms)		1	2	—	—	3	—
Scarlet Fever	...		3	8	3	8	22	—
Pneumonia	...	...	4	—	10	—	14	14
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	2	—	2	—
Small-pox	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	...		—	2	—	—	2	—
Chicken-pox	...	...	21	8	21	5	55	—
			—	—	—	—	—	—
			35	26	40	18	119	—

All cases of Pneumonia have not been notified.

Disease.			Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	...	...	1	1	—
Scarlet fever	...	...	22	20	—
Diphtheria	...	...	6	6	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	2	2	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	14	—	14
Erysipelas	...	...	2	—	—
Chicken-pox	...	...	55	—	—

All cases of Pneumonia have not been notified.

Every infected house was visited. The headmasters of each school in the district were notified and requested to exclude all children from infected houses.

Influenza of a mild type was prevalent during the year.

Of the 119 cases of infectious diseases notified, 29 were sent to the Scaffold Hill Hospital. Of the Diphtheria cases all went to Hospital.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied free by the Council and has been made use of by the local Practitioners.

Bacteriological Aids for diagnosis have been taken advantage of, specimens being sent to the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Tubercular cases have been notified by local Practitioners and School Medical Officers, and many have taken advantage of the facilities given for Sanatorium treatment by the County Council, and the visiting stations at Wallsend and Blyth.

The majority of Venereal patients are taking advantage of the treatment at the special hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during the years 1920 to 1925 were :—

1920	...	102
1921	...	75
1922	...	37
1923	...	85
1924	...	76
1925	...	119

The increase for year 1925 partly accounted for by the inclusion of 55 cases of Chicken-pox which was made notifiable during the year.

HOUSING (See appendices).

The principal part of the population of the district are employed in coal-mining, and live in houses provided by the coal companies. Many of these houses are of an old type and are only provided with ashpit and privy accommodation, many of the ashpits being uncovered. The other portion of the population live in houses provided by private enterprise, mostly of the flat type of house (one tenant upstairs and one tenant down) and have ash closet accommodation.

Over-crowding is not now so prevalent throughout the whole area, and it is estimated that about 200 houses are required to meet the shortage. 200 houses have more than two occupants per room, and the number of houses intended for one family only, which are now occupied (without being specially adapted) by two or more families, is about 200.

The chief causes for this overcrowding are the facts (1) That the sons and daughters who have got married are taken by their parents to live with them, until such times as they can get houses. (2) That this district being a flourishing industrial one, where plenty of work can be obtained, many people are tempted to take in families as lodgers who have no accommodation for them. These conditions could not be fully remedied, owing to the difficulty of finding alternative accommodation due to lack of houses. This condition has been improved by the erection of 41 houses by private builders and 80 by the local Authority.

The general character of the defects found in the present unfit houses, are dampness, due to the ground floors being below the level of the ground, defective spouting, bad ventilation, low ceilings, and the upper rooms being mostly attics.

The Council have erected during the year 80 houses on the Castle Park Building Estate of 23.75 acres, at Backworth, which was acquired by them compulsorily for the purpose. This Building Estate has now been completed, 250 houses having been erected.

PARK HOUSE ESTATE.

The Council have acquired this Estate of 27 acres and commenced to erect houses of the A and B type. It is proposed to erect 310 houses.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics for Year ended 31st December, 1925.

I.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	...	...	...	12,080
(2) General death rate	...	...	...	11·25
(3) Death rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	·99
(4) Infantile mortality	...	...	...	86·33
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	2,583
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	2,491
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	121

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	155
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	20
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	230

II.—Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	60
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	...	...	...
(a) by owners	...	...	...	40
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	4
--	---

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	60
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	40
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	nil

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	4
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	4

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

(1) Name of Area	Part of whole district.
(2) Acreage	about 10 acres.
(3) Number of working-class houses in area	100
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced	450

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	nil
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5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer	Medical Officer of Health, and Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor
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CARAVAN DWELLINGS.

There are 3 Caravan Dwellings now in the Murton Township which have been displaced from adjoining districts. These dwellings should be discouraged as much as possible.

NURSES, HOSPITALS, ETC.

There are 3 District Nurses working in the area, supplied by the Northumberland Nursing Association, who attend to practically all the midwifery cases, and are very much appreciated by the inhabitants.

The district is one of the constituent authorities of the Earsdon Joint Hospital Board, who have ample accommodation for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, and a separate Hospital for Small-pox. Motor Ambulances are provided for the conveyance of patients to the Hospitals. A Steam Disinfector is provided for the disinfection of all clothing.

Ambulance facilities for non-infectious cases and accidents are provided by the local collieries and by the workmen's associations.

An Infant Welfare Centre has been established at Backworth during the year.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging has been done by the Council's own workmen and continues to be more satisfactory than in previous years when the work was let by contract. At present the refuse is utilised as manure by the various farmers in the district, but a suitable tip will be urgently needed in the near future.

20 ash closets have been substituted to replace the large uncovered privy ashpits. Of the total number of tenants in the district, 1,525 have privy ashpits, 728 ash closets, and 476 water closets. All the new houses have water closets, and it is very desirable that all privy ashpits should be converted as soon as possible.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. It has been of good quality and the supply has been excellent. The average consumption of the whole district has been 10·4 gallons per head per day.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage is satisfactory. The irrigation ground and sewage disposal grounds at Holywell have been attended to, are in good order, and are working satisfactorily. The sewage from the other parts of the district is carried to the sea. Extension of sewers has been made for the Castle Park and Wellfield Estates, and a new sewer has been laid for the proposed Estate at Park House.

An extension of the sewer has been carried out at West Holywell and Holywell Village.

LIGHTING.

The whole of the district is now lighted by gas. The lamps are fitted with automatic controllers and are satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 6 factories and 21 workshops in the district. These have been inspected and are in good order.

Inspection of factories and workshops, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors of Nuisances—

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	24	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	84	—	—
Total ...	108	—	—

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 29 cowsheds and 6 milk purveyors in the district. Visits of inspection have been made, and 5 notices were served to limewash the cowsheds.

ALLOTMENTS.

510 Allotments are provided throughout the district for the workmen and are appreciated by most of the tenants, but there is a difficulty in getting all of them let.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 8 slaughter houses in the district, which have been regularly inspected and found in good order.

Bye-Laws have not yet been adopted for the regulation of these premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 11 Fish and Chip Shops in the District which have been periodically inspected and found to be in good order.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

TAYLOR DIXON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

EARSDON,

APRIL, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Earsdon Urban
District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

NEW BUILDINGS.

41 houses have been erected during the year by private enterprise:—1 at Holywell, 33 at Wellfield, and 7 at Park House, and on each a subsidy of £75 has been paid.

The Coal Company is busy with the remodelling of the houses at West Row, West Holywell, and 8 have been completed. The space in front has been fenced off into gardens, and a back street is in course of erection. When this row is completed it will be a great improvement.

20 ash-closets have been erected in place of the large uncovered ash-pits:—10 at Havclock Place, 2 at East Holywell, and 8 at Bates Cottages.

The Council have had under consideration the conversion of all privies and ashpits in the area, and instructions have been received to make a start in the Holywell area.

HOUSING SCHEME (CASTLE PARK).

80 houses have been erected during the year, making a total of 250 on this estate.

PARK HOUSE ESTATE.

The Council have purchased this estate of 27 acres, and the lay-out for the crection of 310 houses has been approved by the Ministry of Hcalth. 20 houses have been erected and occupied. Another contract has been entered into for the crection of 50 houses and good progress is being made.

TOWN PLANNING.

The Town Planning Scheme having been approved all new buildings in the area have to be crected to comply with the Scheme with respect to density, roads, etc.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

750 yards of sewer have been laid :—80 yards at Wellfield, 60 yards at Castle Park Estate, 550 yards at Park House Estate, 20 yards at Holywell Village, and 100 yards at West Holywell.

1,260 yards of drains have been laid to connect the houses, 20 yards at Holywell Village, 800 yards at Wellfield, 320 yards at Castle Park Estate, 80 yards at Park House Estate, and 40 yards at West Holywell.

125 yards of defective drains have been re-laid in the district.

ROADS AND STREETS

The Fisher Lane Road improvements have been completed at the cost of £3,062, and a grant of 75% has been received from the Unemployments Grants Committee. This road is a very great boon to the inhabitants of Havelock Place.

1,696 tons of tar macadam have been laid on the second class roads at the cost of £2546. A grant of £623 has been received from the Ministry of Transport.

1,146 tons of tar macadam have been laid on the other district roads.

1,280 tons have been laid on the Fisher Lane Road and 871 tons on the Castle Park Streetworks.

The Coal Company have temporarily repaired several of their streets.

The Council intend enforcing the Private Street Works Act as soon as possible in several parts of the district.

The Motor Wagons are giving satisfaction, particularly when on stone haulage.

WATER SUPPLY.

Township.	Estimated Population.	Gallons.	Average Consumption per head per day.
Earsdon ...	4,300 ...	20,851,000 ...	14·5
Holywell ...	3,500 ...	10,388,000 ...	8·8
Backworth ...	2,920 ...	11,438,000 ...	10·0
Murton ...	1,360 ...	3,780,000 ...	8·2
	<hr/> 12,080 <hr/>		

The average consumption of water for the whole district is 10·4 gallons per head per day as against 11·4 last year. The total consumption of water for all purposes in the district has been 65,257,000 gallons.

1,680 yards of water main have been laid:—780 yards at Castle Park, 600 yards at Park House, 200 yards at Wellfield, and 100 yards at West Holywell.

Owing to the poor supply of water at the highest part of the district, it is the Council's intention to lay a large main at Castle Park.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 21 Workshops and 6 Factories in the district; these are periodically inspected and were found in order.

SCAVENGING.

This work is done by the Council's own horses and carts and has been very satisfactory, very few complaints having been received. During certain periods of the year we have a difficulty to obtain refuse tips, and often the refuse has to be carted long distances.

2 motor wagons have been purchased to assist with the scavenging when not engaged in hauling stones for the roads; these are giving satisfaction.

16,764 cart loads and 606 lorry loads of refuse were removed during the year; this is an average of 7 tons 2 cwts. per house per annum.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

102 cases have been notified during the year as against 26 last year:—22 cases of Scarlet Fever, 6 cases of Diphtheria, 2 cases of Enteric Fever, 2 cases of Erysipelas, 14 cases of Pneumonia, and 55 cases of Chicken Pox. 23 cases were removed to Hospital. All the infectious houses are visited and after removal to Hospital were disinfected if possible.

Every precaution was taken with respect to the case of Smallpox. The house and clothes were disinfected, and all contacts were kept under observation.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 8 Slaughter Houses in the district; these are kept in a clean condition. No notices have been served. Bye-laws ought to be made for control of these houses.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

29 Cowkeepers and 6 Purveyors of Milk are on the register. 70 visits were made during the year and 5 notices to limewash the cowsheds were served.

ALLOTMENTS.

There are 510 Allotments in the district.

LIGHTING.

The whole of the area is lighted by gas supplied by the Tynemouth Gas Company. During the year 14 extra lamps have been fixed, 2 at Earsdon Square, 3 at Holywell, and 9 at Castle Park, making a total of 265 lamps in the area.

· OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 11 Fish and Potato Chip Shops in the district; these were periodically inspected and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. No notices have been served.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report [Sanitary Officers' Order 1922, Art. 19 (12)].

[illegible]

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

			After Letter or Interview.	After Informal Notice.	After Statutory Notice.	TOTAL
<u>SANITARY CONVENIENCES.</u>						
Privies abolished ..	...	...	20	—	—	20
„ repaired ...	...	...	1	—	—	1
Privy ashpits abolished ...	...	...	20	—	—	20
„ „ roofed or repaired			2	1	—	3
Pail-closets abolished ...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Water closets provided ...	...	...	1	—	—	1
„ „ repaired ...	...	...	6	—	—	6
Sanitary bins provided ...	...	New House	—	—	—	—
„ „ renewed ...	...	...	—	—	—	—

DRAINAGE.

New drains constructed ...	...	1260	—	—	1260 yards.
Drains repaired or reconstructed	125		—	—	125
Additional gullies provided	...	—	—	—	—
Old gullies replaced ...	...	2	—	—	2
Scullery sinks provided ...	...	2	—	—	2
„ waste-pipes repaired ...	...	10	—	—	10
„ „ trapped ...	...	13	1	—	14
Yards repaired or reconstructed	3		—	—	3

WATER SUPPLY.

Sources closed or discontinued ...	Nil.	No. of houses affected...	Nil.
New service provided ...	...145	No. of houses affected...	145

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Number of dwelling houses inspected	...	...	...	73
Number considered " unfit for habitation "...	...	...	...	18
Complaints as to " unfitness " by (a) Householders	...	...	...	12
(b) Parish Councils	...	...	...	—
Closing Orders—				
No. of " Representations to L.A."	...	...	...	—
No. of Orders made	...	...	...	—
No. determined after repair	...	...	...	—
No. of houses made fit for habitation—				
(a) After " Informal Notice "	...	...	...	17
(b) After Notice under Sect. 28	...	...	...	1
(c) After Closing Order made	...	...	...	—
(d) By L.A. in default of owner	...	...	...	—
No. of houses closed voluntarily—				
(a) After Notice under Sect. 28	...	...	...	—
(b) Without " Notice "	...	...	...	—
No. of houses demolished—				
(a) Under " Demolition Orders "	...	...	...	—
(b) Voluntarily by owners	...	...	...	—

Housing Act, 1890.

(a) No. of " Representations " as to Obstructive Buildings	...	...	...	—
(b) No. of such buildings demolished	...	...	...	—
(c) Representations as to Unhealthy areas	...	...	...	—

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. MACMILLEN,

Sanitary Inspector.

